



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
25 June - 2 July 2025**

**delivered by H.E. Valerie Wanjiku RUGENE,
Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Kenya**

AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank Dr. Sherif Sedky of Egypt for a successful chairmanship of the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and congratulate you, Prof. Rafiq Akram of Morocco, on your election as the Chair of the 68th Session. I also congratulate your new Bureau, which also includes other members of the Group, Mr. Juan Francisco Facetti Fernandez of Paraguay, First Vice-Chair and Ms. Hesa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain, Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. You can count on the Group for its full cooperation and support to you, Chair, and all members of the Bureau as we consider issues of utmost relevance, especially for developing countries, at this important session of the Committee.

2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session. The Group reiterates its support to the Office and its activities taking into account the needs of developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

3. Considering the time constraints, the G-77 and China wishes to make the following remarks which should be considered applicable to all agenda items and working groups:

- a. The Group reiterates its strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those in the Outer Space Treaty and as outlined in RES. GA.1962 (XVIII) and RES. GA.1884 (XVIII). The Group is of the view that all outer space activities including mega-constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the international law, including the UN Charter.
- b. The Group underscores the imperative of fully implementing the *Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the interest of all States taking into account the needs of developing countries* (UNGA A/RES/51/122). In this regard, it is crucial that developing countries are not

left behind or unfairly disadvantaged by exploration, exploitation and peaceful uses of outer space. Consequently, space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits for developing countries, including transfer of technology on favorable terms and capacity-building.

4. The Group welcomes the ongoing consultations on the proposal to hold the United Nations Conference on Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space (**UNISPACE IV**) in 2027 and underscores that **UNISPACE IV** must be action-oriented and an opportunity to consolidate the interests of developing countries to ensure that the use and exploration of outer space is carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all countries, regardless of their degree of scientific and economic development and in accordance with the Outer Space Treaty and applicable international law.

5. The Group noted with appreciation the continued work of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultations (ATLAC) [conducted by the Co-Chairs, Mr. Hasan Abbas of Pakistan and Ms. Ulpia Elena Botezatu of Romania]. The Group looks forward to endorse **ATLAC**'s multi-year work plan and initial list of potential priority topics, including consolidating support to developing countries, by the Committee during this Session.

6. The Group urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures and related actions contrary to international law and the UN Charter, mindful that they hamper or impede access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries.

7. The Group joins other calls to further support UNOOSA amid the current financial constraints. The Group stresses that the current situation should not impact the principle of equitable geographical representation in the Secretariat. The Group requests that UNOOSA continue, as per its mandate, to promote the peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, advance international cooperation, and strengthen the capacity of developing countries in utilizing space applications.

8. Finally, the Group looks forward to the adoption of a consensus report of this session that avoids matters exceeding the mandate of COPUOS.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



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**AGENDA ITEM 5: WAYS AND MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUTER SPACE FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES.**

1. The Group wants to underscore its firm conviction that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law.

2. The Group reiterates that COPUOS, with its two Subcommittees, is the only UN forum to discuss comprehensively all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. Accordingly, the Group believes that the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all States and that ensures the space development and activities of developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group welcomes the new applications to join the membership of the Committee. The steady growth of COPUOS in recent years is a clear sign of the international recognition of the unique role of COPUOS as the UN forum dedicated to discussing and promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. It is important that more Member States of the United Nations be welcomed as this contributes to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space.

4. In this regard, the Group both welcomes and encourages the participation of observers in the Committee and its Subcommittees as this contributes to greater engagement with the activities of COPUOS.

5. The Group reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the peaceful use of outer space to prevent an arms race there and to refrain from placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and any other actions contrary to that objective.

6. In this regard, the Group notes that transparency and confidence building measures could play a useful role. The Group believes that the long-term sustainability of outer space activities requires the commitment of all Member States to use outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.



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AGENDA ITEM 8: SPACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

1. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, with the view to realizing a shared vision for the future, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries.
2. The Group reiterates the principles included in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, that should govern activities in the space:
 - a. universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development;
 - b. the equitable and rational use of the outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind;
 - c. the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, by any means,
 - d. international cooperation in the development of space activities.
3. The Group further reiterates the need to use this opportunity to address current challenges and fully consolidate aspirations of developing countries on peaceful uses of outer space including strengthening international cooperation, availing equitable access and sharing the benefits of outer space activities for all humankind, particularly for the interest of developing countries, including through providing additional support for space sciences and applications.
4. While several Member States of this Group have achieved important milestones in space activities, others are starting to develop their own space programmes and policies. This fact is a recognition of the potential, importance and benefit of space activities. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries are not left behind or are unfairly treated in space exploration efforts. In this connection, it is imperative to intensify the efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived from outer space activities with a view to promoting the contribution of peaceful uses of outer space to socio-economic development.

5. In line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote a wider participation of developing countries through active and sustained assistance by advanced space faring nations and the Office of Outer Space Affairs free from conditionalities.

6. To this end, capacity building, technical assistance and transfer of technology are key factors in the expansion of the abilities of those working in the field, allowing them to gain expertise and knowledge from more advanced spacefaring nations.



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AGENDA ITEM 9: SPIN-OFF BENEFITS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY: REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS.

1. The Group considers it crucial that developing countries are not left behind or unfairly disadvantaged by exploration, exploitation and peaceful uses of outer space. The Group is of the view that space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits for developing countries.
2. In order to achieve this goal, transfer of technology on favorable terms for developing countries, as well as associated capacity-building are of vital importance. In this vein, the Group strongly encourages States to strengthen international, multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including by addressing challenges and obstacles that hinder such cooperation, particularly, in developing countries.
3. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding, as well as mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to enable UNOOSA to provide sufficient support for developing countries, according to their needs and priorities, including through the Office's capacity building Programmes and technical assistance.



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AGENDA ITEM 13: FUTURE ROLE AND METHOD OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. For the G-77 and China it is important to reach consensus on the reports of the Committee and its Sub-Committees in order to make progress on issues related to the peaceful uses of outer space conducive to our collective advantage, thus avoiding politicization and prolongation of discussions that exceed the mandate of COPUOS.
2. The Group takes note of the adjustments to the organization of work to the 68th session of the Committee and reiterates that these measures are applied exceptionally and will not create precedents in the work of the Committee. The Group underscores the need for established group's statements to be granted more time as the standard practice in the UN.



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AGENDA ITEM 15: “SPACE2030” AGENDA.

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores the continued relevance of the SDGs, the "Space2030" Agenda and its Implementation Plan.
2. It is important to highlight that international cooperation in the development of space activities is a paramount principle, especially for those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the benefit and in the interest of all Member States taking in particular account the needs of developing countries.
3. The sustainable use of outer space should place a special emphasis on capacity-building activities and technical assistance programmes to bridge the huge divide between developed and developing countries in this domain and address the growing need to secure sufficient resources to this end.
4. The Group recalls the mid-term review of "Space2030" Agenda and takes note that the Review so far was not conclusive and requests that the Review be extended with the view to ensure collection of comprehensive and conclusive views on the Review of Agenda 2030.
5. The Group further reiterates the need to use this opportunity to address current challenges and fully consolidate aspirations of developing countries on peaceful uses of outer space including strengthening international cooperation, availing equal access and benefit sharing, providing additional support for space sciences and applications for developing countries.
6. The Group recognizes the central role of UNOOSA in advocating the benefits of space science and technology for sustainable development and in promoting international cooperation in the pursuance of the "Space 2030 Agenda". We look forward to working closely with UNOOSA in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, including in meeting the "Space 2030 Agenda" advancing international cooperation, strengthening the capacity of developing countries in utilizing space applications, and promote

inclusivity and gender equality, gender balance and empowerment of women, as applicable, in the space sector.

Mr. Chair,

7. It is imperative to intensify the efforts to extend to all Member States the benefits derived from outer space activities with a view to promoting the contribution of peaceful uses of outer space to socio-economic development, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals bearing in mind the outcome of the UNISPACE +50 process such as the UNGA resolution 73/6 and the “Space2030” Agenda.